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P R O C L A M A T I O N

COLONEL EDWARD A. [illegible]
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

America is at war. Congress has declared a state of war to exist between the United States on the one hand and Japan, Germany and Italy on the other. Our armed forces are now in open combat with those of our enemy nations.

The regularly constituted National Guard of the State of South Dakota is now in active federal service under a call duly issued by the President of the United States. These Guard units are absent from the State of South Dakota.

More than six months ago, because of the fact that our National Guard units were absent from the state, an experienced group of peace officers was organized upon a statewide basis for the protection of life and property within our state. This force now numbers more than two thousand men and is equipped to handle any probable situation that may arise within our boundaries and are subject to call by me or The Adjutant General at any hour.

Under the provisions of Chapter 174 of the Session Laws of 1941, authority was given to me, when the National Guard of this state was absent from the state, to declare an emergency, and I deem the present situation to be such an emergency and so declare it. The Department Commander of The American Legion, the Department Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Grand Chef De Gare of the Department of 40 et 8, and the Attorney General have submitted to me the following recommendation in support of this declaration:

"TO THE HONORABLE HARLAN J. BUSHFIELD, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

"The undersigned committee, selected by you to investigate the necessity and advisability of establishing according to law a State Guard for the State of South Dakota during this time of emergency, report as follows:

"We recommend, after an investigation and consideration of the matter, that you as the Governor of said state, declare an existing emergency in the State of South Dakota; that you immediately take steps to establish a South Dakota State Guard for the following purposes:

(1) To aid in civilian defense;
(2) To be prepared for any emergency;
(3) To stimulate unity and patriotism; and
(4) For the welfare of the State of South Dakota and the people thereof.

"We recommend that the State Guard be composed of two units to be classified as and called: (1) a mobile unit; (2) a local unit; the mobile unit to be composed of three hundred men, or such further number as The Adjutant General may deem necessary from time to time, to be divided into companies of seventy-five men each, strategically located throughout the state, to be equipped with arms, ammunition and supplies, and trained for actual combat duty, if necessary; the local units to be located in the cities of the State of South Dakota as may be determined by The Adjutant General.

"That the services performed by the members of the State Guard shall be voluntary and without remuneration by the state, the officers thereof to be commissioned by the Governor and to be selected by The Adjutant General, such officers to be reputable citizens with previous military training.

"That the State Guard shall be under the direction, regulation and control of The Adjutant General's office.

"That the cities in which said units are located be requested to furnish the facilities for the housing and training of such units.

"That the members of the said State Guard shall wear a uniform similar to the regular army uniform, to be specified by The Adjutant General and to be purchased by the members of the State Guard or some one for them without expense to the State of South Dakota, said uniforms to be purchased under the direction of The Adjutant General's office and to be worn under such regulations as he shall from time to time prescribe.

"We recommend that The Adjutant General requisition from the government such arms, equipment and ammunition as shall be available and may be required, and shall be delivered to the officer or officers in charge of such units, provided a good and sufficient undertaking be given by such officer or officers for the care, preservation and return of the same.

"Your committee further recommends that you ascertain whether or not funds are available in this period of emergency for increased state defense and, if so, thatyou designate sufficient amounts for the use of The Adjutant General in building and maintaining adequate state defense.

EDWARD A. BECKWITH COL. A.G.D.
CLAUDE A. HAMILTON, DEPT. COMMANDER AMERICAN LEGION
F. E. SCOTT, DEPARTMENT COMMANDER V.F.W.
JAMES G. HANKES, GRAND CHEF De GARE
DEPT. 40 et 8
LEO A. TUMMY, ATTY GEN."

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In pursuance to this declaration of an emergency, I therefore command and authorize you, under such regulations as may be approved by the Secretary of War of the United States, to organize and maintain such State Guard unit as you may deem requisite for the purpose.

DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Pierre, this sixteenth day of December, nineteen hundred and forty-one.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

ATTEST:

Secretary of State.
(GREAT SEAL)
HEJ:ns

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